

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed on September 25, 2003, the Applicant proposes to amend the claims as shown above.

No new matter is added by the proposed amendments.

In the Official Action, the claims received the following rejections:

(a) Claims 16 - 18, 20 - 22, and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by McAndrew (U.S. Patent No. 6,095,404).

(b) Claims 16, 18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Siemens AG (DT 2340423 A).

(c) Claims 16, 18 - 20, 22, 23, 31, and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Izuta et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,609,287).

(d) Claims 16 - 23 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Miyahara (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,559).

(e) Claims 16, 18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Ohno (U.S. Patent No. 4,666,078).

(f) Claims 16 - 18, 20 - 22, 24, 31, 34, and 44 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Geschwind (U.S. Patent No. 4,331,258).

In addition, claims 25 - 30, 35 - 43, and 45 - 52 were allowed, while claims 32 and 33 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

While the Applicant disagrees with the above grounds of rejection for the reasons set forth in the response filed on July 21, 2003, in order to expedite prosecution, the Applicant proposes to cancel rejected claims 16, 24, 31, and 34 for the purpose of pursuing these claims further in a continuation application. Dependent claims 32, 33, which were objected to, have been rewritten as independent claims including all the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent claim 43, which was allowed, has been rewritten as an independent claim (new claim 53), and dependent claim 44 has been rewritten as a new claim (claim 54) depending from claim 53 and so is now allowable. As a result of this amendment, all the rejected claims will have been cancelled or amended so as to depend from an allowed claims, so all the claims remaining in the application will be in condition for allowance.

The above proposed amendment is directly solely to cancelling rejected claims, to changing the dependency of a claim, or to putting claims that were objected to into condition for allowance, so it raises no new issues. Entry of the proposed amendment is therefore proper under MPEP 714.12.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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